American Veterinary Medical Association Professional Liability Insurance Trust
Student Scholarship
Award for a third-year student who has been a continuous SCAVMA or SAVMA member.
Recipient: Carrie Howe

Augustus Searles Scholarship for Women
Awarded to female veterinary students based on academic standing.
Recipients: Rachel Spencer and Brittany Stewart

Bayer Excellence in Communication Award
Representative: Bayer HealthCare LLC
For a veterinary student who has demonstrated strong communication skills during a medical/surgical clinical case client interaction.
Recipient: Hannah Able

Bob and Diane Coderre Veterinary Scholarship
Representatives: Robert and Diane Coderre
Scholarship for a third-year student in good academic standing who is planning to practice in a rural area, is interested in working with alpacas, or both.
Recipients: Kaitlin Costello and Kaitlin Marg

Carl F. and John C. Schlotthauer Award
Annual award to a fourth-year student who has demonstrated strong interest and outstanding ability in veterinary surgery and/or veterinary pathobiology.
Recipient: Molly Friedemann

Class of 1953 Memorial Scholarship
Awarded to a third or fourth-year student who has a defined interest in food animal medicine. The student should have a positive attitude toward life and people, have strong interests outside of veterinary school, be liked by all, and be an all-around nice person.
Recipient: Kenneth Deutz

Class of 1955 Memorial Scholarship
Awarded to fourth-year students in the food animal program.
Recipient: Sammi Shaykett

Class of 1959 Project Fund
Representatives: Dr. Peter Franz and Patricia Libby
Awarded to a deserving veterinary student.
Recipient: Melissa Roy

Class of 1960 Memorial Scholarship
Awarded to a second-year student who is in good scholastic standing.
Recipients: Anne Merley
Class of 1961 Memorial Scholarship  
**Representative:** Dr. Hilary Mohr  
Awarded to a fourth-year student who is in good scholastic standing and intends to pursue a career in research.  
**Recipient:** Peter Sebastian

Class of 1963 Legacy Fund  
**Representatives:** Dr. Terry Boldingh, Dr. Charles Casey, and Dr. Richard Huston  
Awarded to a worthy CVM student.  
**Recipient:** Kali Goldapske

Class of 1968 Bob Velure Memorial Scholarship  
**Representatives** Dr. Daniel Hartnett, Dr. Gary Leff, and Dr. Jerald Sprau  
Awarded to a deserving third-year student.  
**Recipient:** Erica Campbell

Class of 1969 McDonald Memorial Scholarship  
**Representative:** Dr. Mike McMenomy  
Awarded to students who have excelled in feline medicine.  
**Recipient:** Ashley Balzano

Class of 1970 Scholarship Fund  
**Representative:** Drs. Jerry & Patty Olson  
Awarded to students in good academic standing who are part of the VetFAST program.  
**Recipient:** Michelle Scherping

Class of 1978 Colin Krog Memorial Scholarship  
**Representatives:** Marcia and John Copeland  
Awarded to third or fourth-year students committed to large animal practice who demonstrate academic excellence.  
**Recipient:** Sammi Shaykett

Class of 1983 Kotas Memorial Scholarship  
**Representatives:** Dr. Gregg Takashima and Dr. Elizabeth Thorson  
Awarded to a fourth-year student who has demonstrated leadership abilities and critical thinking and is committed to working in the companion animal field.  
**Recipient:** Käri Strohmaier

Class of 1987 Jeffrey Lindstrom Memorial Scholarship  
**Representative:** Jeffrey Lindstrom Sr.  
Awarded to a third-year student from southwest Minnesota with an interest in large animal medicine.  
**Recipient:** Brady Myers
Class of 1988 Quinlan-Litvak Scholarship  
Representatives: Bonnie Quinlan and Dr. Robert Kroll  
Awarded to a veterinary student for research/service in a developing country.  
Recipient: Elizabeth Schnabel

Class of 1997 Greg Gramer Memorial Scholarship  
Representative: Dr. Marie Culhane  
Awarded to a second-year veterinary student who, as determined by classmates, most exemplifies the true spirit of camaraderie and fellowship. The recipient of the scholarship is the person who brings the class together socially and academically; is loyal, honest, caring, trustworthy, and humble; and has a great sense of humor. These personal qualities are not only evident in the classroom, but also in the clinical setting where he/she is kind and compassionate to both clients and patients.  
Recipient: Rachel Johnson

Conrad & Erin Spangler Scholarship  
Representatives: Dr. Conrad and Erin Spangler  
For a veterinary student who is involved in the Production Animal Medicine Club.  
Recipient: Jennifer Jelinski

CVM Student Council Scholarships  
Representative: Dr. Christopher Anderson  
Awarded to a member of each class who has given a great deal of time and has engaged in extracurricular activities within the University, the College, and the community.  
Recipients: Ashley Hall, Marjorie Schleper, Lara Stephens-Brown, and Patricia Zentner

Donna Ant Scholarship  
Award given to benefit a deserving veterinary student.  
Recipient: Marie Gilbertson

Dr. Dana E. Mangi Memorial Scholarship  
Representatives: Barbara, Joseph, and Sarah Mangi  
Awarded to a student who embodies the same characteristics that made Dana such a special individual and promising veterinary student: her warm, connective personality, her unwavering passion for helping both animals and their owners, and the strength and persistence with which she pursued her passion.  
Recipient: Isaac Secor
Dr. Nirah H. Shomer Award  
**Representative: Dr. Nirah H. Shomer**  
To support students participating in an approved externship/rotation that provides training in laboratory animal science or biomedical research. A second preference will be given to students who have participated in internships or professional development opportunities that provided training in laboratory animal science or biomedical research or who have presented at meetings for the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science, American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners, or other research-focused organizations.  
**Recipient: Alexandria Schauer**

Dr. Pamela Barshack Endowment Memorial Scholarship Fund  
**Representatives: Barbara & Irvin Barshack and Darryl & Joe Pratte**  
Awarded to new full-time students with academic promise. Preference will be given to a parent.  
**Recipient: Ericka Funfsinn**

Dr. Richard V. Huston Scholarship  
**Representative: Dr. Richard Huston**  
This scholarship is to be awarded to a third-year student pursuing a career in bovine medicine and to a talented first-year veterinary student pursuing a career in large animal care who is part of the VetFAST Program.  
**Recipients: Sara Roerick and Brian Stampfl**

Dr. Victor Perman Memorial Scholarship  
**Representatives: Perman Family**  
To support students who are Minnesota residents.  
**Recipient: Hannah Able**

Dr. Winton Grindheim Evans Memorial Scholarship  
Award given to benefit a deserving veterinary student.  
**Recipient: Melissa Roy**

Drs. Paul Homme & Karen Andersen Homme Memorial Scholarship  
**Representative: Virginia Homme**  
For students planning to work with sustainable livestock producers, especially in rural Minnesota communities.  
**Recipient: Jessie Ingvalson**

Friends of the CVM Scholarships  
**Representative: Dr. Christopher Anderson**  
Award to benefit deserving veterinary students.  
**Recipients: Rhonda Burge, Kali Goldapske, Mari Koll, Roland Lefebvre, Sarah Nelson, and Peter Sebastian**
Gene R. Kind Family Trust Scholarship  
Representative: Naomi Kind  
For students who plan to practice large animal medicine in rural areas.  
Recipient: Brady Myers

H.C.H. Kernkamp Memorial Award  
Representative: Dr. Christopher Anderson  
Awarded to a fourth-year student in recognition of his or her contribution to the profession of veterinary medicine.  
Recipient: Roland Lefebvre

Harvey Hoyt Memorial Scholarship  
Representative: Susan Hoyt  
Awarded to a fourth-year student in good scholastic standing who intends to pursue teaching and clinical research.  
Recipient: Roland Lefebvre

Irvin Jorgensen Scholarship Fund  
Representatives: Dr. Hans and Kathy Jorgenson  
Awarded to rising third-year students who are interested in large/food animal practice.  
Recipients: Angie Esselman and David Moe

James B. Moe and Janice N. Moe Scholarship  
Representative: Dr. James B. Moe  
Awarded to third or fourth-year students who demonstrate academic merit and are studying food animal production or plan to have a career in research.  
Recipient: Marissa Garry

James Ford Bell Jr. Scholarship Fund  
Representatives: Dr. Ford and Amy Bell  
Awarded to fourth-year students based on academic achievement and concern for professionalism as reflected in their willingness to work well with classmates and faculty.  
Recipient: Daniel Wingert

John & Bonnie Schlagel Donor-Advised Fund of the Initiative Foundation  
Representatives: John and Bonnie Schlagel  
Award given to benefit a deserving veterinary student.  
Recipient: Rhonda Burge

John Sheehan, Firebrand, Minneapolis Kennel Club Scholarship  
Representative: Ralph Hogancamp  
Award for fourth-year students who have a special interest in the treatment of small animals, with preference given to Minnesota residents.  
Recipient: Timothy Mayerhofer
Just Jodi’s (Toy Poodle) Scholarship  
Representatives: Betty Durand and Helen Mueller  
To provide financial support to female students in their third or fourth year who are  
nontraditional students. Additional preference will be given to students who were born in  
Minnesota or Wisconsin, attained their undergraduate degree from University of  
Wisconsin-River Falls, and plan to practice in a rural setting.  
Recipient: Sara Damiani

Leman Student Scholarship for Swine Medicine  
Representative: Loretta Leman  
Awarded to an outstanding veterinary student who has demonstrated good citizenship,  
clinical proficiency, and scholastic achievement in swine medicine.  
Recipient: Jessica Johnson

Marcella Melby Scholarship  
Award to support deserving veterinary students.  
Recipients: Rebecca Barclay, Hillery Baysinger, Allison Goldsmith, Sarah  
Massarani, and Jacklynn Van Asch

Maxwell the White Shadow Memorial Scholarship  
Representatives: Ronald and Joyce Beauchane  
This award is for students who have a defined interest in small animal oncology or  
cardiology.  
Recipient: Timothy Mayerhofer

Minneapolis Kennel Club Scholarship  
Representative: Ralph Hogancamp  
Awarded to fourth-year students who have a special interest in the treatment of small  
animals, with preference given to Minnesota residents.  
Recipient: Katherine Lowery

Ned Olson Memorial Scholarship  
Representatives: Peggy Ingram, Nancy Moreland, and Timothy Olson  
Awarded to a fourth-year student who demonstrates great proficiency and  
professionalism in large animal medicine.  
Recipient: Kayla Klehr

Nelsen Family Scholarship  
Representatives: Drs. Kara & David Nelsen and Ella Kuha  
For a third or fourth-year student who is interested in practicing feline medicine/surgery.  
In memory of Ross Charles Kuha.  
Recipient: Sarah Nelson

Nestlé Purina Leadership Award  
Awarded to a second-year veterinary student who demonstrates outstanding leadership  
in and outside the classroom.  
Recipients: Jennifer Matelski and Lara Stephens-Brown
Rodney G. Johnson D.V.M Award for Excellence in Ability to Serve the Swine Industry
Representative: Jean Johnson
To benefit a senior student who has a positive attitude, strong communication skills, and has demonstrated a strong interest in serving the swine industry.
Recipient: Jessica Johnson

Salsbury Veterinary Medicine Scholarship
For students going into their fourth year who have demonstrated superior scholarship, initiative, perseverance, and potential for leadership.
Recipients: Carrie Howe, Sarah Knowles, Zach Loppnow, Mikayla Schroeder, and Patricia Zentner

Sime Family Scholarship
Representatives: Dr. Donald and Elaine Sime
Awarded to a third-year student interested in small animal practice who attended a Minnesota high school.
Recipient: Colette Nix

Simmons & Associates Educational Trust Scholarship
Award is to be given to a third-year student who has an interest in the business of veterinary practice, a measurable aptitude for business matters, proven leadership abilities, an entrepreneurial interest, good business skills, effective communication, and the capability to function as a team player.
Recipient: Zach Loppnow

Stephanie R. Boddy Endowed Scholarship for Veterinary Medicine
Representative: Hollis Lundquist
Award to benefit deserving veterinary students.
Recipients: Paige Holum and Lauren Vezzosi

Steven Ramsdell Memorial Scholarship
Representatives: Gerald and Joanne Ramsdell
Awarded to a third-year male student who has a positive mental attitude toward life and people, has strong interests outside of veterinary school, is well-liked by classmates and faculty, and is an all-around nice person.
Recipient: Brian Stampfl

Strike Zone “Striker” Memorial Equine Scholarship
Representative: Dr. Carol Ormond
To provide financial assistance to first, second, or third-year veterinary students interested in equine medicine who have shown dedication to learning and compassion for horses.
Recipient: Erica Dobbs
The Cleaver Scholarship
Representative: Dr. Linda Leuthold Donerkiel
Award to benefit deserving veterinary students.
Recipients: Erica Campbell, Marie Gilbertson, Anastasia Johns, Katelyn Scott, and Jeffrey Stegmaier

The Eisenberg Family Scholarship
Representatives: Jeffrey, Trent, and Jaci Eisenberg
Awarded to a first, second, or third-year student focusing on oncology, based on merit.
Recipient: Camille McAloney

The Squeak the Cat Scholarship
Representatives: Lisle Cameron and Sylvia Wilhelmi
Awarded to a student who has a special love for felines and feline medicine.
Recipient: Natasha Lewis

Van Sloun Family Scholarship
Representative: Joseph Van Sloun
Awarded to a student who intends to pursue a career in research and to a student who intends to pursue a career working with wildlife.
Recipients: Jonathan Clayton and Jordan Young

VetFAST Scholarship
Scholarship to support VetFAST students.
Recipients: Alyssa Anderson, Samuel Beech, Nathan Bos, Jessica Charles, Kenneth Deutz, Isabelle Eid, Rachel Friese, Craig Gapinski, Cassandra Griebel, Joseph Hammes, Jessica Johnson, Ashley Kipka, Kaitlin Marg, Jacqueline Martin, Melissa Minkkinen, Erika Nagorske, Casey Pawelk, Sara Roerick, Michelle Scherping, Sara Scott, Janna Sorg, Natasha Spiczka, Ryan Strobel, and Ashley Swenson

VeTouch Scholarship
Scholarship for students involved in the VeTOUCH program.
Recipients: Katie Bahr and Theresa Fakler

Willmus Family Trust
Representatives: Dr. Tom and Rita Willmus
Awarded to a graduate of a Minnesota high school who has completed their junior year and will practice food animal medicine.
Recipient: Mari Koll

Zinpro/Schugel Scholarship
Awarded to a third-year veterinary student studying food animal medicine.
Recipient: Jonathan Durmin
The Caleb Dorr Awards for Academic Achievement

**Caleb Dorr Scholarship**
Awarded to the top academic students of the second, third, and fourth-year classes.
**Recipients:** Rebekah Brown, Rachel Spencer, and Brittany Stewart

**Caleb Dorr Award**
Awarded to the fourth-year student with the highest academic standing.
**Recipient:** Rachel Spencer

Scholarships Announced in Fall of 2015

**Class of 1957 Memorial Scholarship**
To benefit a first-year VetFAST student who is from a rural area. Preference will be given to a male student if underrepresented at the time of the award.
**Recipient:** Craig Gapinski

**Dr. Alvin & Eleanor Weber Scholarship**
**Representatives:** Dr. Alvin Weber and Prof. Hazel Stoeckeler
Awarded to new students from rural Minnesota.
**Recipient:** Marjorie Schleper

**Dr. Alan Flory Scholarship Fund**
**Representative:** Dr. Alan Flory
Award for new students with academic promise who are committed to building diversity within the college.
**Recipient:** Kristine Brown

**Dr. Charles H. Casey & Barbara J. Muesing Scholarship**
**Representatives:** Dr. Charles Casey and Barbara Muesing
To support new students from rural communities, with preference to students who reside in Minnesota communities with populations of 10,000 or less.
**Recipient:** Marjorie Schleper
Dr. John Aldrich Scholarship Gift
Representatives: Bernard and Cindy Aldrich
Awarded to new students who have met academic guidelines. Preference will be given to students who are interested in studying large animal medicine and have demonstrated leadership and good community citizenship.
Recipient: David Pillman

Elmer Hokkanen Memorial Scholarship Fund
Representatives: Carol, Julie, and Gary Hokkanen and Diane Walli
For students enrolled in the VetFAST program who have academic promise.
Recipient: Samuel Beech

Jerome & Julie Vergin Scholarship
Representatives: Julie and Jerome Vergin
Awarded to full-time undergraduate students showing academic promise who have been accepted into the VetFAST program and are focusing their career on food animal veterinary medicine.
Recipient: Jacqueline Martin

Katherine Anderson Endowed Scholarship
Representative: Dr. Katherine Anderson
Scholarship to be used to recruit new students with academic promise.
Recipient: Nathan Blumenfeld

Pearce Family Scholarship
For an incoming student who shows academic promise.
Recipient: Marjorie Schleper

Ray and Lee Janssen Memorial Scholarship
This fund will support new students with academic promise, providing scholarships to entering freshman students enrolled in the College of Veterinary Medicine.
Recipient: Caitlin Kemp

Rebecca Ann Urbanski & Scott Junkert Scholarship
Representatives: Dr. Rebecca Urbanski and Scott Junkert
To support new students who are committed to building diversity in the college and who show academic promise in companion animal care.
Recipient: Kristine Brown

Robert Merrill Memorial Scholarship
Representative: Barbara Merrill
Awarded to incoming students from rural Minnesota interested in becoming food animal veterinarians. Recipients should receive the scholarship for each year they remain in good academic standing.
Recipient: Zach Loppnow
Robert Merrill Memorial Scholarship II
Representative: Barbara Merrill
This scholarship will support new students who show academic promise and can be renewed for existing recipients.
Recipient: David Pillman

Roberts Family Scholarship
Representatives: Margot and Steven Roberts
To benefit a VetFAST student, with preference given to a Minnesota high school graduate.
Recipients: Nathan Bos and Isabelle Eid

The Dean’s Scholarship
Representative: Dean Trevor Ames
Given to support a new student with promise from Minnesota.
Recipients: Jolani Daney

VetLEAD Scholarship
Representative: Dr. Laura Molgaard
To benefit VetLEAD students.
Recipients: Danielle Lewin
Hannah Able - Class of 2016  
**Hometown:** Geneva, IL

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
It has been a privilege to meeting and work with such compassionate veterinarians and other professionals who support educating future veterinarians. The clinicians, residents, interns and veterinary technicians do a wonderful job helping to us to develop our skills and knowledge all the while providing excellent care to patients. I have really enjoyed being in the hospital working with client and patients.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**
Educating people and providing preventative medicine to animals.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**
During my clinical year, I have really enjoyed spending time with the wonderful friends I have made while here the past four years. The Twin Cities has so much to offer with an endless supply of restaurants, breweries, museums, concerts and parks to spend time with great people.

Alyssa Anderson - Class of 2018  
**Hometown:** Owatonna, MN

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
The best part of my time at veterinary school has been attending hands-on labs and meeting new friends.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**
I would use my education to help provide food for the world and educate our consumers on swine production.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**
During my spare time, I like to teach dance classes and socialize with friends and family.
Katie Bahr - Class of 2017
Hometown: Waseca, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
The activities I'm involved with have definitely been the best part of my time while attending the College of Veterinary Medicine. Activities have been a great place to make friends, network, and build confidence in your veterinary skills. It's cool to interact with clients in a real-world setting and help make decisions that is best for them and their pets. Overall, activities have helped me grow as a person both professionally and personally.

What would you like to do with your DVM degree?
One interest of mine is small animal reproduction. As much as I love helping bring new animals into the world, I think responsible breeding is needed as the pet overpopulation problem is getting out of control. I feel this is a huge concern for our small animal species and something that should be addressed.

What do you like to do in your free time?
I thoroughly enjoy the clubs I've been involved with while being in veterinary school (VeTouch, Behavior Club, SIRVS, SCAVMA, and VBMA), but I also like to stay active outside. I enjoy paddle boarding, dog agility with my energetic dog Zoey, tennis, soccer, board games, watching movies, and doing puzzles.

Ashley Balzano - Class of 2016
Hometown: Charleston, SC

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
The best part of my time at the College of Veterinary Medicine has been my fourth year. I have really enjoyed applying the knowledge I have gained over the past three years in a clinical setting. It has also been wonderful being able to work with our clinicians and my classmates on rotations.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I would like to use the knowledge I have gained during my time in veterinary school to help combat pet overpopulation. Millions of animals are euthanized every year due to a lack of responsible homes for them. In addition to these animals enduring unnecessary suffering, they also serve as reservoirs for diseases that can be a threat to public health. This is an issue that I am very passionate about and I have been fortunate enough to participate in numerous spay/neuter clinics while in veterinary school. I believe that veterinarians play a significant role in this issue, as it is our job to educate our clients about responsible breeding and the importance of spaying and neutering their pets.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my spare time I enjoy spending time with friends, traveling to warm places, working out, horseback riding, and being on the water.
Rebecca Barclay - Class of 2017
Hometown: West Windsor, NJ

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
Being able to apply what I have learned in my first two and a half years of vet school to clinical cases in a real-world setting.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I would like to use my education to help the public better understand where their food is coming from and the amount of work that goes into creating the final product of what they buy in grocery stores and restaurants. I think this would help people to be less wasteful with our resources and appreciate them more.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my spare time I try to get outside as much as possible. I enjoy hiking, running, fishing and downhill skiing. I work at the clinical pathology lab at the CVM which I find very rewarding and try to participate in club activities whenever time allows. I spend my summer's gaining hands-on experience by working as a veterinary assistant in a small animal hospital.

Hillery Baysinger - Class of 2017
Hometown: Rapid City, SD

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
I have loved the labs and all of the hands on time!

What would you like to do with your DVM degree?
I would simply help to educate the public about the responsibility and blessings a pet brings. Many people get pets without realizing the committment, additionally, many people don't realize what a great experience being a pet owner can be.

What do you like to do in your free time?
I enjoy many outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, running, canoeing, and camping. I love the summers here in Minnesota for this reason. Additionally, I like to spend time with friends and family. I really enjoy cooking and playing the piano as well.
Samuel Beech - Class of 2019
Hometown: Slayton, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
My favorite part of the College of Veterinary Medicine is the small high school feel that the college has. I went to a very small high school, and I always loved knowing the names of all of my classmates, and being able to have conversations with all of them. I have made some very close friends already, and I am excited that we have three more years together. It is also very comforting to know that grades are no longer a competition. We all work together as much as possible to ensure that we all get our DVM.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
If I could solve one problem with my degree, I think that I would find a way to help farmers avoid bankruptcy during herd health outbreaks. When the meat and milk markets are at low points, a herd health problem can lead to bankruptcy. It is so heartbreaking to see the stress producers feel when the loss of only a few animals can mean the difference between making and losing money for the year. I hope that I can help solve herd health problems before the producer loses animals. Even more importantly, I would love to be a part of creating a strategy to level out market variability so that small scale producers are less financially vulnerable.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I am a member of the Veterinary Business Management Association Club, and the Production Animal Medicine Club. I also work at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory on campus. I hardly consider this a job because of the great hands-on experience I receive, and the fun times I have with my veterinary school co-workers. In my spare time I really enjoy hunting and fishing, and getting out into nature for some fresh air.

Nathan Bos - Class of 2019
Hometown: Luverne, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
So far, I have enjoyed the hands-on classes and course work the most. These classes provide the best form of learning and are usually more relevant to my interests.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
One problem that I would choose to help solve would be the issue of educating consumers on the best practices for food animal production. Consumers want to know where their food comes from, but are often misinformed or ignorant of what is best for animals. Narrowing the gap between consumers and food animal production will allow animals to be raised in the best way as well as satisfying consumers.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my spare time, I enjoy exercising, spending time with friends, raising cattle, working on the farm, and playing sports. I'm involved in PAM Club, VBMA, AABP, and SCAVMA Social Committee.
Rebekah Brown - Class of 2018
Hometown: Savage, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
The opportunity to learn about and work with "completely new" animal species, such as cattle!

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
The overpopulation of homeless and abused animals.

What do you like to do in your free time?
I enjoy reading corny romance novels and cuddling my cat, Sugar, in my spare time.

Rhonda Burge - Class of 2016
Hometown: Millston, WI

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
I have really enjoyed so many of the opportunities I have had while I’ve been at the College of Veterinary Medicine. The program has allowed me to gain experience in my areas of interest while also exploring areas that I never knew I would love including; small animal rehabilitation, pain management, and oncology.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I am very passionate about the use and development of pain control modalities in veterinary medicine. Pain management has come a long way recently, but we, as an industry, can continue to improve. I believe that pain control begins with preventative medicine (including client communication, nutritional consults, and weight management), and then should be reassessed continuously. I especially believe that we need to develop better methods for identifying and treating pain in cats (who, as well all know, are not small dogs!) as well as cancer-associated pain.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I have been actively involved in several clubs on campus, including the Canine Club and SCAVMA. I love traveling, so I have attended veterinary spay/neuter campaigns both at home as well as abroad (Nicaragua and Peru). When I am not vet-ing, I love camping and hiking with my dog, Shotzi, and watch all the Green Bay Packer games I can!
Erica Campbell - Class of 2017  
Hometown: Valley Stream, NY

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
I have really enjoyed participating in the various wet labs and field trips throughout my time at the College of Veterinary Medicine. The junior surgery spay lab was one moment in particular that I know I will always remember. I am looking forward to more hands-on experiences and client interactions in my upcoming clinical year.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
Controlling pet overpopulation and providing affordable veterinary care to those who need it the most.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I enjoy spending my free time relaxing with my cats, baking and exploring the historic architecture of St. Paul.

Jessica Charles - Class of 2017  
Hometown: Belgrade Lakes, ME

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
I have loved seeing the passion for learning and teaching in my fellow students and teachers. I have also enjoyed watching what I am learning make a difference in the the lives of individuals and their beloved pets.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I would like to take my education and serve in other countries where people rely more on their animals as their livelihood. I’d like to be able improve the animals life which in turn would improve the life of the family they provide for.

What do you like to do in your free time?
I enjoy anything outdoors including hiking, horseback riding, cross country skiing and swimming. I also love curling up with a good book in front of a wood stove fire.
Jonathan Clayton - Class of 2017
Hometown: Durham, NC

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
Participation in the DVM-PhD program has been the best part of my time at the College of Veterinary Medicine. The opportunity to work closely with my PhD thesis committee members and collaborators proved to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. As a student, I have had the opportunity to conduct international research in multiple countries, including Costa Rica, Vietnam, and Singapore. From 2012-2013 I spent nine months in Vietnam conducting field research. My PhD thesis research project continues today, and is based on a strong collaboration with a major Vietnamese university (Danang University), as well as a local NGO (GreenViet Biodiversity Conservation Center), and includes a major outreach component. In addition to traveling internationally to conduct research, I have been provided opportunities to attend multiple international scientific meetings in developing countries. Specifically, I have presented my research at academic conferences held in Mexico and Vietnam. Given that I conducted the field portion of my research in Vietnam, it was a great honor to present my findings at the 2014 International Primatological Society (IPS) Congress in Hanoi.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I am currently undertaking a joint DVM-PhD program at the University of Minnesota. I am in year eight of the nine year program and recently received my PhD in Comparative and Molecular Biosciences; my dissertation was entitled: Associations between nutrition, gut microbial communities, and health in nonhuman primates. My research is focused on understanding the relationship between gut microbial communities and health, including the relationship between primate gut microbial communities and nutrient utilization in species with evolutionarily specialized diets. Maintenance of many animal species as captive populations, including nonhuman primates, is hindered by critical gaps in our understanding of the enteric microbial adaptations that facilitate the digestive process. Many species, such as colobine primates, are susceptible to gastric disorders when maintained on commercially prepared diets in captivity. The development of a better understanding of host-microbiome interactions in animal species will allow for the potential identification of possible changes in diet or modulation of the microbial communities to enable success in captive situations. Ultimately, I hope to provide health care to wildlife, improve the care of captive wildlife, and to generate data demonstrating the plausibility and necessity of preserving, expanding, and protecting isolated wildlife populations. I also have a strong interest in the link between animal and human health.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my spare time, I enjoy doing research. In October 2013, my collaborators and I started an official "Primate Microbiome Project" (PMP) to address broader questions about the primate microbiome. Our interdisciplinary team has established the PMP with the goal of developing a systematic map of variation in microbiome structure and function across all primates and to relate this to primate health, evolution, behavior, and conservation. I thoroughly enjoy participating in the continued development of the PMP. Aside from research, I also enjoy traveling, spending time with family and friends, and playing sports.
Kaitlin Costello - Class of 2017
Hometown: Burlington, NJ

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
I have really enjoyed being able to shadow with local practitioners that I was able to meet through various clubs and on campus organizations. This allowed me to gain confidence in my clinical skills and client communications.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I feel like there is a large communication gap between agricultural and wildlife conservation efforts. I would love to be able to bridge that gap in order to ensure the sustainability of our livestock, agricultural land and conserve our wildlife species and resources.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I enjoy watching movies, snuggling with my two cats, and enjoying the various outdoor activities Minnesota has to offer. I enjoy participating in wet labs and other veterinary club activities through SRCC, ZEAW, and RAM club. I also enjoy volunteering at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Roseville.
Sara Damiani - Class of 2017  
Hometown: Forest Lake, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?  
The best part of my time at the UofM has been my involvement as an officer of the SCAAEP Equine club. Attending the national convention each year, exciting wet labs, colic & foal team, and other extracurricular activities that the club puts on have really benefited my time. The best part of my time at the College of Veterinary Medicine has been my involvement as an officer of the Student Chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (SCAAEP) club for the past two years. Attending the National Annual AAEP Convention each year, exciting wet labs, and other extracurricular activities that the club puts on have really benefited my time here. Being the coordinator of Foal Watch and Colic Team for the club specifically has been the most rewarding. Having the opportunity to observe healthy foals be born and helping with their care within the first 24 hours is an extraordinary experience here.

What would you like to do with your DVM degree?  
Ultimately I decided to pursue veterinary medicine to care for animals who do not have their own voice in communicating what is wrong or what they need from us. Patient care is number one, therefore client education is a key aspect to successfully providing this care by involving them in the health care of their animal. Owner compliance is not a new challenge to veterinarians but I believe that it is still an important area that we can improve in. As a soon-to-be veterinarian, I will use my education to customize the way I deliver information specific to each client’s need. Some owners simply require a verbal explanation, whereas some may gain a better understanding from written instruction, a hands-on demonstration, or a combination of all of the above. I aim to incorporate these different ways to improve owner’s understanding of the care surrounding their animal in hopes to increase compliance.

What do you like to do in your free time?  
In my spare time I enjoy riding my Paso Fino horses, going out to eat, attending music concerts, and snowboarding. One of the most enjoyable and important parts of keeping my life in balance is setting aside time to catch up with my veterinary school “family” as well as my non-vet school friends and family. These people form the core of my support network, and I appreciate their continued support and encouragement!
Kenneth Deutz - Class of 2017
Hometown: Marshall, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
Meeting and learning from many veterinarians who find joy and purpose in the work they are doing. The passion of these vets are an authentic example of how to live well as a veterinarian and encourages me on my way to develop myself and others who play a role in this challenging profession.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I wish to help individuals and communities develop their ability to problem solve, work together, work smarter, and find joy and purpose in the work they are doing in their place in life. Towards what one big problem? Individual and community failure to thrive.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I enjoy spending time with my family & friends, participating in Production Animal Medicine club and Christian Veterinary Fellowship activities, discovering how my academic studies work together with my faith, driving a tractor back and forth in a field, running, playing badminton, camping, making crafts, reading good books, working with farm animals, and playing card games.

Erica Dobbs - Class of 2017
Hometown: Long Lake, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
Participating in the CVM Summer Scholars program has been a highlight for me. It was a great experience and I had the opportunity to apply concepts I had learned in school while pursuing research in my area of interest.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
Osteoarthritis. It is a big problem for both animals and humans and there is very promising research in the areas of early detection of OA and implementation of treatment that I hope to be involved in during my career.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my spare time, I enjoy riding and showing my horses and spending time with family and friends. I am also a member of the SCAEP and Research Animal Medicine clubs and enjoy attending associated meetings and activities.
Jonathan Durmin - Class of 2017  
**Hometown:** Minnetonka, MN

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
Developing lifelong professional friendships through the GOALE program, and our more collaborative coursework.

**What would you like to do with your DVM degree?**
If my veterinary education could lead to the resolution of the global challenge of food scarcity that would be pretty swell.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**
I enjoy spending quality time with my wife & our cats, reading & writing about comics, learning about comparative cultures, historical eras & religions, cooking, dancing, keeping up on current events, public health & civil welfare advocacy, playing board games, catching up with friends, hiking, target shooting, Nordic skiing, and traveling.

Isabelle Eid - Class of 2019  
**Hometown:** Montevideo, MN

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
Getting to know my amazing classmates, who have become an incredible support system and second family to me.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**
I would like to prevent future emerging infectious diseases from entering production animal populations.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**
I enjoy working with my herd of dairy goats and alpacas on my farm back home, mentoring the 4-H goat project members in my home county, and staying active in several clubs here at school (Production Animal Medicine Club, Research Animal Medicine Club, and Zoological, Exotic, Avian and Wildlife Club to name a few). I also have a background in music and play piano, violin, and ukulele in my limited spare time.
Angie Esselman - Class of 2018
Hometown: Hamburg, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
What I enjoy the most about being a veterinary student at the University of Minnesota is that I was fortunate enough to be hired at the equine center as a veterinary student technician. I am able to work during my busy semesters and during the summer as well. Being a student technician at the equine center has given me so many hands on skills that you cannot learn in the classroom. I enjoy working with the animals, doctors and other technicians at the hospital.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
One problem within the equine medicine world that I would like to help solve would be a more economical approach to prevention and treatment of equine ulcers. I have had personal experience with horses with ulcers and with being a full time student, I understand the struggles of cost of ulcer medications for prevention and treatment which are some of the most expensive equine products to purchase for continuous use. Supplements for prevention of equine ulcers need more research behind them and I would like to study them more closely.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
My favorite activity to do in my spare time is horseback riding and spending time with my horses. I really enjoy showing my Paint horses in all-around pleasure events. I also enjoy running and spending quality time with my family, friends, and pets.

Theresa Fakler - Class of 2017
Hometown: Alexandria, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
The best part of my time at the College of veterinary medicine is being able to volunteer to help provide veterinary care to low income communities in the Minneapolis area through Vetouch.

What would you like to do with your DVM degree?
One problem I would like to solve with my education is dental disease.

What do you like to do in your free time?
The hobby that takes up most of my time out side of veterinary school is agility training my Scottish Terrier. I am also the vice president of the new veterinary dentistry club. A few classmates and I started the club from scratch this year. Finally, I enjoyed being a clinic manager for Vetouch, scheduling pre-vet students to help out the monthly clinics.
Molly Friedemann - Class of 2016
Hometown: Edina, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
Being able to pursue my passion in life.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
Antibiotic resistance.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I enjoy reading, eating good food, and spending time outside with my dog. I also love to travel and spend time with my family.

Rachel Friese - Class of 2018
Hometown: Wanamingo, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
I have enjoyed participating in various club activities, wet labs, and conferences to gain more experience outside of the classroom. I have also enjoyed interacting with many professors who have the same interest as I do.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I would like to use my education to help farmers become more efficient in all areas of production while ensuring animal welfare.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my spare time I enjoy spending time on my family's dairy farm. I also enjoy attending cattle shows, swimming, fishing, and spending time with family and friends. During the school year I am involved in the Production Animal Medicine Club, Small Ruminant and Camelid Club, Pathology Club, Christian Veterinary Fellowship, and I work as a student employee at the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab.
**Ericka Funfsinn - Class of 2016**

**Hometown:** Belvidere, IL

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
Clinics! Working with my classmates on clinics has been amazing.

**What would you like to do with your DVM degree?**
The no brainer problem that needs solving is cancer in our pet population. But I don't make a very good researcher so I'd probably focus on improved surgical techniques and owner awareness to combat orthopedic disease in canines. Watching an animal have to be euthanized just because his/her body doesn't work right anymore is heart wrenching.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**
I try to spend most of my spare time with my 19-month-old daughter, husband and fur/feather children. I have 2 dogs, 2 cats, 2 birds, and 2 fish tanks so I'm pretty busy! In the warmer months, my husband and I like to play tennis and go on hikes or take Emi to the park.

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**Craig Gapinski - Class of 2019**

**Hometown:** St. Cloud, MN

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
I have enjoyed the clubs that provide great learning opportunities as well as the activities that are put on to keep you involved and give you a break from class.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**
I would use it to inform the public about the importance and myths of antibiotics in the livestock industry, but also to research and find new ways of managing pathogens in food animal production that is cost effective and provides increased production and efficiency to the producer.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**
In my spare time I enjoy playing ball, hunting, fishing, and trapping. I also I enjoy raising cattle and doing field work back home.
Marissa Garry - Class of 2016  
**Hometown:** Fairmont, MN

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**  
I have appreciated all the travel opportunities veterinary school has provided me. My fourth year externships have been valuable to my development as a future food animal veterinarian. I have also enjoyed getting to know many of the food animal faculty members and my classmates while forming professional relationships with them which will help me utilize their knowledge once I get out into practice.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**  
I would like to use my education to help provide a safe, wholesome food supply and to educate consumers about food animal production. I would also like to utilize my education to research and better understand high path avian influenza which has been a devastating problem in MN poultry flocks.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
I enjoy spending time outdoors with a passion in fishing and hunting. I have also enjoyed partaking in the Production Animal Medicine Club activities such as wet labs and social events.

Marie Gilbertson - Class of 2017  
**Hometown:** Mounds View, MN

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**  
Participating in the Summer Scholars program was a spectacular experience, and really helped me find my "niche."

**What would you like to do with your DVM degree?**  
I would wish to find inexpensive and reliable solutions to common food security challenges in the developing world, in order to foster better health and economic stability for the people there.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**  
I enjoy training my two very energetic Australian shepherds in agility, as well as trying out new baking recipes and eating the results.
Kali Goldapske - Class of 2016  
Hometown: Darboy, WI

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
Gaining knowledge and confidence to begin my career in veterinarian medicine. But also having the opportunity to meet and work with professors, classmates, and clients who have pushed and inspired me to be the best version of myself every day.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I would like to help provide education and equality to those who do not have access to schooling or educational resources.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I enjoy competing in triathlons, road biking, camping, and reading a good book.

Allison Goldsmith - Class of 2017  
Hometown: Vadnais Heights, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
The best part for me has been getting to know so many new friends with the same passion for veterinary medicine as me and knowing they will all be my colleagues. I have also really enjoyed being a part of different clubs that have allowed me to make connections and gain interesting hands on experiences.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
If I could solve one really big problem in veterinary medicine it would be pet obesity and client education on why it is so important.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I enjoy being outdoors and going to my cabin in northern MN as well as going on hikes and camping with my husband and dogs. I love spending time with family and friends, and also really enjoy art, especially mosaics. I am an officer of the Animal Behavior club and Dentistry club and have really enjoyed working on projects and making new connections in those fields as well.
Cassandra Griebel - Class of 2017  
Hometown: Pipestone, MN

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
The best part of my time at the College of Veterinary Medicine is becoming close with the people in my class. They help me unwind from a long day in the classroom. They push me to be the best I can be in the labs and during the classes. I am very excited to be able to call my classmates friends, and an amazing source of information.

**What would you like to do with your DVM degree?**
I have a strong passion for production animal medicine. If I could solve one major problem I want to show people of my generation real animal welfare in an unbiased, tested, and proved information. I want to find a way to use the newest technological advances to make easily consumable and shareable information.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**
I love to be in the barn when not in class. I work with my sheep, play with my horse, and enjoy all that nature has to offer. I also enjoy reading, and doing brain puzzles when the weather is less than optimal to be outside.

Ashley Hall - Class of 2016  
Hometown: Kennesaw, GA

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
I met some of my favorite people in the world and developed friendships that will last a lifetime! I also discovered my passion for leadership and legislative advocacy. Coming into veterinary school, I never would have imagined I would become active at the legislative level, but through my involvement with GAPSA and University Senate, I developed an incredible passion for public policy. I have had the privilege of meeting many wonderful people, lobbying for veterinary issues at the State and National level, and have determined my future career path.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**
As a veterinarian in public policy, I would like to lower the cost of education and increase loan forgiveness opportunities for the veterinary profession. The overall cost of attendance has grown exponentially over the past ten years and continues to increase for students, which directly impacts the field in many ways. In general, I would also like to increase the number of veterinarians that play an active role in public policy.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**
I spend most of my spare time with my eight year old son. He definitely keeps my life busy and full of adventure. In my limited spare time, I love exploring the cities and night life, trying new foods (everything unhealthy), and going to concerts. In the summer, I live outdoors hiking, canoeing, and camping. On lazy days, I love curling up under blankets and binge watching The Good Wife.
Joseph Hammes - Class of 2018  
**Hometown:** New Prague, MN

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**  
Having the opportunity to participate in extracurricular learning has been one of the highlights of my veterinary career so far. I feel blessed to been given many opportunities to learn from experienced veterinarians, and I look forward to what the future has in store.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**  
I would use my veterinary education to help educate the public about animal production and stop the spread of misinformation about current agricultural practices.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
I like to spend as much time outside as possible. Whenever i’m not working at home on the dairy, I like to go to concerts, spend time on the lake, and spend time with friends.

Paige Holum - Class of 2016  
**Hometown:** Mitchell, SD

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**  
I have greatly enjoyed my clinical year spent working alongside and learning from our clinicians as I expand my knowledge and confidence in approaching clinical cases.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**  
I enjoy feline medicine and feel there is room for improvement in many small animal general practices to decrease the stress of veterinary visits for both the cats and the owners and therefore increase feline visits and client compliance. By becoming more cat friendly, I feel that practitioners can increase the population of cats that receive preventative care and annual exams that allow for early detection of disease.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**  
I enjoy traveling, reading, and spending time with friends, especially while sitting around a bonfire during the summer.
Carrie Howe - Class of 2017
Hometown: Blaine, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
I have really loved getting to know my classmates and colleagues. The people in this profession continue to amaze me, and I am so proud to be joining such a wonderful group of professionals.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I would use my education to solve our obesity problem in pets and people.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my free time I really enjoy spending time outside with my kids and husband. Some of my favorite activities are downhill skiing, camping, hiking, and sailing.

Jessie Ingvalson - Class of 2016
Hometown: Caledonia, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
I especially enjoyed the opportunity to develop my knowledge and clinical skills during rotations. Additionally, rotations were a fantastic opportunity to get to know classmates and faculty I had not previously worked with in the past.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
Preventable diseases like tuberculosis and brucellosis are rampant in developing countries. As veterinarians, we are equipped to address these problems both in the field and behind the desk. I plan to continue to volunteer with projects focused on disease prevention and eradication for the developing world.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I am an avid backpacker, chef, mountain biker and photographer. I especially enjoy international travel. My most recent trip was spent volunteering in Uganda with Veterinarians Without Borders. The project focused on disease surveillance and prevention in rural refugee settlements.
Jennifer Jelinski - Class of 2017
Hometown: Monona, WI

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
I have found the most value in our hands-on labs throughout the years, including clinical skills and surgery labs. The camaraderie that I've shared with fellow classmates has been extremely meaningful to me as well.

**What would you like to do with your DVM degree?**
Improving efficiency of production animal systems in developing countries around the world.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**
I love being outside; camping, canoeing, gardening, scuba diving, hunting and running with my dog are some of my favorite ways to enjoy the outdoors. I love to travel, and am an avid reader and acrylic painter. I'm the current Bovine Chair / VP of the Production Animal Medicine Club, and like to spend what free time I have learning about cows.

Anastasia Johns - Class of 2017
Hometown: Duluth, MN

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
The best part of my time at the CVM so far has been seeing the results of long hours of studying and many days in class. When I am looking at a case, whether it be homework, at my own clinic job, or from a journal article, it's extremely rewarding to realize I have the tools and skills to breakdown that case and figure out what is happening with that particular patient. Realizing this is a fantastic feeling, as it means I am on my way to achieving my goal of becoming a veterinarian.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**
There are many problems I would love to solve with my education, but picking just one, I would solve the prevalent problem of pet obesity. I feel that in my everyday work I can make a difference in many pets' lives just by being open with their owners about the impact obesity has on their pets' health. Weight loss or maintenance is something that is certainly achievable for owners, and I look forward to being part of their support network to make that possible.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**
I enjoy spending time with my dog Briar, whether it's a night at training class or a day out on the lake. I also spend my time working at a local veterinary clinic as an assistant. Other things I enjoy are traveling, cooking, and spending time with family.
Rachel Johnson - Class of 2018  
Hometown: Altoona, WI

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
I have had many fantastic experiences so far at the CVM, but overall, I enjoy getting involved in the vet med community. I'm also continually surprised and delighted by the myriad of professional opportunities a degree in veterinary medicine can bring.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I would love to apply my education to the problem of species extinction by getting involved in conservation medicine. I hope, with my veterinary education and public health degree, to play a small part in addressing the alarming problem of global warming, the struggle that plays out at the human-animal-habitat interface and species disease and extinction.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I enjoy spending time with my fiancé, my family including my nieces and nephews, and spending time with my own pets of course! They generally enjoy it too, unless I get my stethoscope out! I also enjoy watching movies with my friends and taking small trips to visit friends in other cities.

Jessica Johnson - Class of 2016  
Hometown: Almelund, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
Participating in rotations and getting hands on experience.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
A problem I would like to solve is the negative societal view of today's agriculture. I would like to use my education to be a public speaker for my industry. Help individuals who are removed from agriculture to see what happens in everyday life.

What do you like to do in your free time?
I enjoy spending time with family and friends, hunting, fishing, camping, and anything I can do outdoors with my dog. I also enjoy volunteering with animal rescue organizations.
Ashley Kipka - Class of 2018
Hometown: Foley, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
Meeting classmates, faculty and future colleagues that have the same passion as I do.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
To educate those who are not involved with agriculture or who are removed from the farm about daily occurrences and practices on an average family farm.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my free time I enjoy fishing, camping, gardening, and playing card, board and yard games with my family and friends.

Kayla Klehr - Class of 2016
Hometown: Richmond, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
The best part about my time at the College of Veterinary Medicine was when I was chosen to be its student representative at the 2014 Smith-Kilborne Foreign Animal Disease Program. This opportunity allowed me to continue to explore my interest, which was sparked in vet school, in various foreign animal diseases that potentially threaten our domestic animal population. While participating in the program I had the opportunity of a lifetime, to visit the Plum Island Animal Disease Center.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
As a student tracking Food Animal Medicine I think that we need to serve as the positive link between the producers and consumers. Consumers are unaware of where their food comes from and how and why it is raised the way it is. So the big problem I would choose is the lack of education the general public has about food animal production, correcting the misconceptions that exist, and help to serve as that positive link.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my spare time I enjoy many outdoor activities with my family and friends that including; swimming, four wheeling, water skiing, hunting, playing with the dog, cats and rabbit, biking and sitting around the campfire. I also enjoy making my own greeting cards, crafting, and working with animals or riding along with a vet when I have time.
**Sarah Knowles - Class of 2017**  
**Hometown:** Eagan, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?  
Although I have learned so much and had many fantastic educational opportunities during my last three years at the College of Veterinary Medicine, I have to say the best part has been developing many significant, lifelong friendships. My friends have been so instrumental to my success in vet school and I couldn't imagine going through the highs and lows without them.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?  
If I could, I would use my education to help solve the ever growing issue of declining aquatic animal populations here in Minnesota's many bodies of water but also in the world's oceans. The health of the world's aquatic ecosystems and their inhabitants are crucial to the health of the Earth's water and atmosphere, are at the center of many food safety and public health issues, and are the livelihood of numerous groups of people around the world.

What do you like to do in your free time?  
In my free time I enjoy being active in student clubs, including the Student Chapter of the AVMA (SCAVMA) and the Zoological, Exotics, Avian, and Wildlife (ZEAW) club, and working as a Veterinary Assistant at St. Francis Animal and Bird Hospital. I also love to play soccer, spend time outdoors, and relax with my cat, boyfriend, family, and friends.

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**Mari Koll - Class of 2017**  
**Hometown:** Saint Cloud, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?  
The best part of my time at the College of Veterinary Medicine has been the time spent forming friendships with other students of all different backgrounds and interests.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?  
I would chose to use my education in veterinary medicine and public health to solve the issue of food insecurity in this and other countries.

What do you like to do in your spare time?  
In my spare time I like being outside hiking in the woods or running, especially if that includes my family's dog Luna. Lately I've been spending most of my spare time training our new 4 month old puppy, Klaus. I also enjoy playing volleyball, singing, reading, and just relaxing with friends. On campus I am involved in the Production Animal Medicine Club and the Small Ruminant/Camelid Club.
Roland Lefebvre - Class of 2016  
**Hometown:** Boxborough, MA

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
My clinical year has been the best part of my time at the College of Veterinary Medicine. I have enjoyed applying the knowledge obtained through the first three years of veterinary school to actual patients.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**
If I could solve one problem with my education it would be the large loan debt that veterinary students take on to obtain their degree.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**
In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my wife and daughter. I also enjoy getting outside to play soccer, mountain bike, rock climb, cross country ski, and fly fish.

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Natasha Lewis - Class of 2016  
**Hometown:** Pittsburgh, PA

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
Clinical rotations have been the best part of my time at the CVM. I am able to put my education to use and help patients, which is something I have waited a long time for. I have so much fun working with clients and their pets.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**
I honestly would choose to use my education to educate clients. There are too many problems for me to choose just one so I’d rather focus on the problems that my clients have.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**
I enjoy reading, baking, traveling, and studying archeology.
Zach Loppnow - Class of 2017  
Hometown: Lake City, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
I have really enjoyed getting to know the broad array of people in the veterinary community. While we definitely are a small and tight-knit world, we can still boast a broad spectrum of people, personalities, and professions that make the small community complex and incredibly valuable. I think the hardest part on graduation will be having to leave some of these people behind, but with the anticipation of meeting even more of my veterinary colleagues.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I would choose to use the education I have gained here to try and close the gap between the agricultural/rural communities, and the suburban/urban communities. So much misinformation is spread everyday because there is a lack of education and communication between these groups of people. It is my hope that I can use my education to create a bridge of knowledge between these two groups of people to secure a better future for everyone when it comes to food and agriculture production.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
As a student, I stay very active and involved with many of our student organizations. Beyond my role as a Student Representative for the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association, and my work as a Student Ambassador, the work I am most proud of is my time spent with the Veterinary Business Management Association. After serving as President-Elect, and President of the Minnesota Chapter, I now serve as the National Vice-President of the entire VBMA organization. Additionally, I work with Hercules, the blood donor draft horse at the Equine Center. When I can get home, I help with my family's show pig business, Valley Yorkshires. In my free time, I enjoy reading books, staying active, and playing a variety of musical instruments.

Katherine Lowery - Class of 2016  
Hometown: Maplewood, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
Having the opportunity to network with veterinarians and technicians around the hospital and the entire twin cities.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
To provide valuable information to pet owners about proper nutrition for their dogs and cats.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
During my time at the University of Minnesota, I enjoyed creating and running Alpha Psi' live farm kitty spay/neuter lab. In my spare time, I enjoy crafting, camping, and swimming.
Kaitlin Marg - Class of 2017  
**Hometown:** Winona, MN  

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**  
I have really enjoyed getting to know my classmates and growing with them. I have also really enjoyed all the labs and hands on experience that we get.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**  
I think that preventative medicine is one of the most important aspects of veterinary medicine and I would like to be able to pass on my knowledge and educate producers and clients so that they can have the healthiest animals possible.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**  
I enjoy hiking, baking, reading, and spending time with my dog, Rosie.

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Jacqueline Martin - Class of 2019  
**Hometown:** Reading, MN  

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**  
I have really enjoyed interacting with the faculty and learning more about Production Animal Medicine.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**  
While Production Animal Medicine has advanced leaps and bounds just in my lifetime, I think there is always room for improved efficiency. Improved efficiency of animals results in a positive environmental impact, positive financial impact for the producer, and a lower cost, quality product for the consumer. Animal efficiency can be improved in many ways: quality healthcare, improved genetics, management, and proper nutrition to name a few. I hope to gain the knowledge during my time here at the University of Minnesota, so that I can be a productive member of the great Large Animal Industry here in America.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
At school I enjoy being a part of the Production Animal Medicine Club, swimming, hiking, and cooking. During my school breaks, I like helping out at my uncle's dairy farm, volunteering in agriculture classrooms, taking my Boxer to visit the local nursing home, and spending time with my Boxer, Beagle, and 6 Orpington chickens.
Sarah Massarani - Class of 2017
Hometown: Barrington, IL

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
Veterinary school is a humbling experience, and I really like how I can compare who I am now, as a third year veterinary student, to who I was as a first year. It has been very cool to teach and train first and second year students at work. When I reflect on it, I remember being in their shoes as a clueless, insecure first year. It is a reminder that I have grown and learned so much, even when it might not feel like I have. I am also happy with the solid group of friends and support network I have made at school; these are people who will continue to be a part of my life even after graduation.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
Climate change

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I enjoy spending time outdoors, yoga, journaling, and reading. If I am not in class, I am usually working at school, where I’ve gained most of my hands on experience in the ICU, Wards and Blood Donor Program.

Jennifer Matelski - Class of 2018
Hometown: Harbor Springs, MI

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
The best part of my time at the College of Veterinary Medicine has been the SAVMA symposium that was held at the University of Minnesota, I was able to attend a variety of interesting talks by veterinarians as well as participate in a small animal surgery and small animal dentistry wet lab. These experiences were invaluable for my education and future career.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I am very interested in neurodegenerative diseases that occur in humans and animals. I would love to use my education of veterinary medicine to help better understand and treat diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis that occur in humans and Cognitive Dysfunction Disorder and Degenerative Myelopathy that occur in animals.

What do you like to do in your free time?
I enjoy horseback riding, hiking and camping in my free time. I also enjoy participating in club meetings and activities for a variety of student clubs including animal behavior, research animal medicine, pathology and equine medicine.
**Timothy Mayerhofer - Class of 2016**  
**Hometown:** Jordan, MN

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**  
The best part of my time at the College of Veterinary Medicine is getting to practice clinical medicine. I enjoy the challenge and reward of diagnosing and treating our pets. I find a lot of satisfaction in providing superior care to my patients and upholding the highest quality of evidence based medicine in their treatment. I have found that clinical based training is the most efficient and effective means of learning medicine and its many complexities.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**  
One major problem I would love to solve is the ability to treat degenerative valve disease in our patients. While valve replacement and repair devices have become modern day practice in human medicine, we are still struggling for a surgical intervention that is safe and reliable to treat degenerative valve disease. With a high prevalence and need for better therapy options, I would love to contribute to the research and development of new treatment modalities.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
In my spare time, I love to get outdoors and play sports such golf, wake boarding, skiing, and even curling. I enjoy spending time with my dog and wife on a hot summer day. I also enjoy volunteering my time to veterinary clubs and spay/neuter labs.

**Camille McAloney - Class of 2017**  
**Hometown:** Rosemount, MN

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**  
Getting to know all of my wonderful, talented classmates!

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**  
Cancer. I am going to undertake translational research that will help treat and cure both dogs and humans.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
I enjoy swing dancing, throwing pottery, sewing, writing fantasy/science fiction, studying history, listening to music, and hiking.
Anne Merley - Class of 2018  
**Hometown:** St. Paul, MN  

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**  
The best part of my time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far has been shadowing the laboratory animal veterinarians at the University of Minnesota. It was a great learning experience to better understand how veterinarians provide for the health and well-being of all the animals used for research and education.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**  
I would like to use my education to help the general public better understand the scientific process and how animal use in research benefits both humans and animals alike. There are a lot of misconceptions about how animals are treated and utilized in research and I would like to help clarify the role that they play in the development of drugs and devices that are used regularly in our everyday lives. It is important for people to understand their impact and how much thought and care veterinarians and researchers spend on their wellbeing.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**  
In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my boyfriend, dog, and family. I also like reading books, watching movies, and rooting for the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Melissa Minkkinen - Class of 2017  
**Hometown:** Kettle River, MN  

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**  
The amazing opportunities that we receive from our clubs! It's great that our students and faculty are so willing to put in the effort of setting up so many hands-on learning experiences. A few of my favorites have been SIRVS clinics, where we get experience interacting with clients, running diagnostics, monitoring anesthesia, and performing surgery; SCAAEP wet labs, through which we could learn about farrier work and handling; ZEAW's reptile exams where I learned about handling and husbandry for various species; and SRCC's farm trips, during which we got to help with routine procedures.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**  
I would like to help educate people about the importance of recognizing early signs of disease and treating early in order to give their animals a better recovery.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**  
I enjoy spending time with my animal buddies, volunteering through 4-H, training my cat, playing volleyball, swimming, playing a wide variety of musical instruments, needle arts, sketching, construction work, woodworking, and reading. I also participate in the majority of the clubs on campus and try to make it to as many club activities as possible.
Scholarship Recipients 2016

David Moe - Class of 2018
Hometown: Sauk Centre, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
The best part of my time at the CVM has been networking and developing a relationship with the faculty and my classmates that I will be able to use the rest of my career.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
The problem that I would like to solve with my education is world hunger. Animal agriculture has become much more efficient, and with continued research, we can continue to make a difference.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I enjoy hunting, fishing, and spending time outdoors. I like to spend time with family and friends. I also enjoy developing knowledge of veterinary business management and am a part of the Minnesota VBMA here at the CVM. My passion is food production medicine, and I am a member of the production animal medicine club.

Brady Myers - Class of 2017
Hometown: Redwood Falls, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
It has been fun to feel my knowledge expand and be able to apply it to production animal medicine more and more. There have been times when I've felt uncertain, but more and more I'm beginning to feel like a veterinarian.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I have a huge passion for animal agriculture and I believe it has played a very crucial role in the development of our country and culture. I enjoy introducing children to agriculture and hopefully motivating them to become interested in an industry that has given me innumerable opportunities. I also try to educate the public, whose ties have grown farther away from the farm, whenever I can and I feel that my veterinary education is a useful tool to bridge the gap between consumers and their food.

What do you like to do in your free time?
I enjoy raising livestock and working on the family farm. It is a passion that has consumed me and I enjoy the task of improving management practices for my operation and for others.
Erika Nagorske - Class of 2016
Hometown: Madison, WI

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
Fourth year rotations! Applying the knowledge from the classroom to hands on experience during fourth year has been a great experience.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I would help solve the problem of food supply. I think it is extremely important to provide the world with a safe and high quality food supply, and as food animal, veterinarians we are responsible for making it happen.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I like to spend time with friends and family. I also enjoy fishing and hunting with my husband and our two Labradors (Huck and Ella). I also enjoy gardening and spending time outside.

Sarah Nelson - Class of 2016
Hometown: Elk River, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
Participating in student volunteer groups such as VeTouch and SIRVS was one of the best parts. Getting to use what I had learned to help people and their pets and get great clinical experience at the same time.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I would stop all animal abuse and neglect.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I enjoy playing volleyball, reading, hiking, and hanging out with friends. I also enjoy volunteer work providing veterinary care for pets in underserved areas.
Colette Nix - Class of 2017
Hometown: Maple Grove, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
The best part of my time at the CVM has been forming lifelong relationships with my classmates. We've bonded over all of our struggles and have helped each other along the way. I know that further on in my career, I have peers that I can call at any time for advice, or even join as a proud associate in practice.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I am devoted to Shelter Medicine and the issue of pet overpopulation. Finding ways to non-surgically sterilize or even provide extensive community education on the subject is my passion.

What do you like to do in your free time?
In my spare time, I love going to Aerial Silks class! I always joke that my second career could be joining the circus.

Casey Pawelk - Class of 2018
Hometown: Watertown, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
In the past two years, I have enjoyed getting to know my classmates and creating professional relationships with them and the professors. But the best part of my time at the College of Veterinary Medicine is being able to use what I am learning to benefit my family. My parents and I have begun to work more as a team to run our farm in central Minnesota. They have always valued my input, but now I feel like I have more information to help me make important decisions. They have really supported me in my endeavors and it is a wonderful feeling to be able to give back to the animals we raise and the family that has always believed in me.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
If I could solve one really big problem, I would solve the issue of consumer education. In my opinion, it is important for the consumer to be educated on the food they buy. I am in support of free choice when it comes to choosing food, however, I want the consumers to know that the food they are buying is safe and healthy no matter what kind they get (organic, conventional, free-range, etc.). The veterinarian plays an important role in this matter. We are looked to as a source of information and are trusted by many people in the community. It is our duty, in my opinion, to support our clients (the farmers) and the consumers. Our story and the stories of the clients can impact how food production is viewed and where it will head in the future!

What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my spare time, I enjoy watching movies, reading, and helping on my family's beef and swine farm. I love hanging out with my friends and family and am an avid traveler. At the CVM, I am an active member of the SCAVMA, Pathology, and PAM clubs.
Sara Roerick - Class of 2019  
**Hometown:** Upsala, MN

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
The best part of my time so far at the College of Veterinary Medicine has been getting hands on experience with the different procedures and concepts we have learned while in school. It also has been rewarding to learn a specific concept in class, and then have someone ask me about it or see it somewhere else outside of class. Its nice to know that what we learn in school is very applicable in the everyday world.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**
If I could use my education to solve one really big problem, it would be to find a way to end world hunger. Food security has always been a big interest of mine, and I thoroughly enjoyed learning about technologies and strategies that can be used to help the agriculture industry become more efficient and sustainable in their growing practices. I would love to be a part of this in the future, helping come up with new ideas for farmers in the US as well as other countries to be able to grow enough food so that everyone has a full plate to eat at the end of the day.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**
While at school, I enjoy being active in the Production Animal Medicine Club, Veterinary Business Management Association, and SCAVMA. I also enjoy working for the Bovine Blood Lab at school, as well as helping out at home on my family's dairy farm. In my spare time, I enjoy being outside, hunting, and spending time with my nieces and nephews.

Melissa Roy - Class of 2017  
**Hometown:** Minneapolis, MN

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
Almost every professor is so passionate about their field, that out makes you consider aspects of vet med that you had maybe not considered before. Because of this, I found myself developing interests I did not know I had, and I was able to find a career path that I did not expect when I started.

**What would you like to do with your DVM degree?**
I would like to help make physiologic discoveries that help to shed new light on incurable diseases that affect both humans and animals.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**
I am the president of pathology club, which I only bring up to defend the fact that on my spare time I enjoy performing a necropsy or two. I also work part time in the Comparative Pathology Shared Resource lab where I have spent many an hour warmed by the soft glow of the light microscope with only hundreds of mouse stifles to keep me company. I enjoy walking my dogs on a sunny day, finding new restaurants in the cities, blowing people away with my unexpected karaoke choices, and doing stand up comedy.
Alexandria Schauer - Class of 2017  
**Hometown:** Mandan, ND

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
Being a part of the veterinary community in general has been the best part of my College of Veterinary Medicine experience so far. Veterinary professionals are some of the smartest, hardest working, kindest, and funnest individuals I’ve ever encountered. I’ve made lasting relationships with future colleagues that continue to drive and inspire me. With this profession at my back, I really feel like I can accomplish anything.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**
I’m really interested in bridging the gap between health professions and I strongly support collaboration among fields. I think as individual health professions (veterinary medicine, human medicine, pharmacy, etc), we’re incredibly smart and successful at treating our patients and advancing medicine and research. However, I strongly believe collaboration is an important key to the future of cutting edge medicine. By increasing interdisciplinary research and projects, we can hopefully unite as one well-rounded entity with a vast array of expertise, thereby accomplishing even more.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**
In my spare time, I enjoy getting outside as much as possible through running, hiking, gardening, dog park trips, and camping. I usually have my dog, Frankie, at my side. I also dedicate a good amount of my time to organized veterinary medicine through the Student AVMA and the Research Animal Medicine Club.

Michelle Scherping - Class of 2016  
**Hometown:** Sauk Centre, MN

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
Meeting great people and colleagues.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**
Help educate people about agriculture and where food comes from.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**
I enjoy spending time with my family and helping out on my parent's dairy farm. I enjoy being outdoors and four-wheeling with my husband and spending time with my dog Housten. I like gardening most of the time—I just wish the weeds would pick themselves. I like to do crafts and quilting occasionally.
Marjorie Schleper - Class of 2019
Hometown: Upsala, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
The interactions with the professors and staff within the College of Veterinary Medicine have been the best part of my time here so far. The professors are very personable and are extremely effective teachers. I have always felt valued and respected by the professors and that has fostered an atmosphere conducive for learning.

What would you like to do with your DVM degree?
The big problem that I would choose to solve with my education is world hunger. I intend to work as a food animal veterinarian, so I will use my education to work on this problem throughout my career.

What do you like to do in your free time?
I enjoy horseback riding, reading, and leather carving in my spare time. I also enjoy spending time outdoors and camping as well as watching and playing sports. I am a member of various clubs within the College of Veterinary Medicine and enjoy attending their educational and fun activities.

Elizabeth Schnabel - Class of 2016
Hometown: Lino Lakes, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
Some of the best parts for me were the times I was able to spend learning about exotic and wildlife medicine either through ZEAW club, at The Raptor Center, or through elective courses and rotations. This is a field that I am passionate about and the chance to be engaged with these species and see the creativity and knowledge it takes to manage these kinds of cases is inspiring.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I hope to use my education to solve future conservation problems. Saving our natural resources and biodiversity is one of the most important ways veterinarians can contribute to global health.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my spare time I enjoy bird watching and keeping a list of all the species I have seen. I also enjoy hiking and hope to visit every Minnesota state park one day. My other favorite activities include homebrewing beer and spending time with my dog Cody.
Mikayla Schroeder - Class of 2017  
Hometown: Franktown, CO

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
The best part of my time at the UMN CVM thus far has been the lifelong friendships I have made. Not only do I have friends that are through thick and thin of our education every day, but they are relationships that will last forever!

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I would love to promote women veterinarians as successful specialists. Balancing home life and pursuit of a board certification can be daunting, but with the emergence of driven female veterinarians, I believe this will become more common-place and I hope to play a role in promoting a model for success.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my free time, you can usually find me with my horse or out at the stable teaching riding lessons. When horsing around is over I love to get on my road bike when I am in the twin cities or my mountain bike when I am home or go for a run. On occasion, I have been known to work on teaching my 3 year old Labrador new tricks like fetching my car keys or opening doors for me.

Sara Scott - Class of 2017  
Hometown: Spiritwood, ND

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
I just love being able to learn new things everyday and getting involved in opportunities that will help me succeed as a veterinarian.

What would you like to do with your DVM degree?
I would love to use my education in order to educate the public on animal agriculture. It upsets me when something that I have a passion for gets looked down on because people don't understand common practices of agriculture.

What do you like to do in your free time?
I love being able to get veterinary experience. I have an amazing vet mentor back home that has allowed me to practice my surgery skills. I enjoy going on runs and walks with my fiancé and currently am busy planning our wedding. I love crafting and go to Michaels way to much. In the summer, I enjoy spending time outside and time at the lake cabin.
Katelyn Scott - Class of 2017  
**Hometown:** Pittsburgh, PA

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
Participating in clubs has been the best thing I have done in school. I have learned so much and worked with such wonderful people through planning club events and participating in clinics and labs. It has been particularly rewarding to be able to help younger students learn, especially when it comes to increasing their comfort level working with cats.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**
I would focus on the problem of increasing the percentage of cats and exotic pets that are taken to the vet, and on making the experience less stressful for these animals.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**
I volunteer at the wildlife rehab center, attend VeTouch clinics every month, and go on SIRVS trips a few times per year. Outside of my animal life, I enjoy nature photography, bird watching, hiking and biking, as well as baking, watching netflix and doing giant jigsaw puzzles.

Peter Sebastian - Class of 2016  
**Hometown:** Arden Hills, MN

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
The best part of my time in the program so far has been the chance to get involved with amazing externship opportunities including fantastic mentorship from practicing veterinarians in wildlife conservation medicine. Additionally, I have loved the chance to work one on one with principal investigators in the UMN ecosystem health group through the CVM Summer Scholars Program.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**
My biggest passion is to solve and/or identify health problems associated with ecosystems and wildlife. Being from Minnesota, one of these health problems has been the moose die-off in Minnesota. If I could help elucidate the biggest health concerns with wild moose populations and help bring moose populations in the state back to healthy numbers, that would be a huge win for local ecosystem health concerns.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**
Despite the challenges associated with vet school, I try to engage in activities to recharge. I am an avid bird watcher. I also enjoy taking nature photos and playing with my dog at the dog park.
Isaac Secor - Class of 2019  
Hometown: Stillwater, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
Getting challenged in academics and meeting so many wonderful classmates and professors to help me through it.

What would you like to do with your DVM degree?
I think the problem we vet students are best equipped to help solve is that of antibiotic resistance. We have to educate our clients and be vigilant ourselves to think of the larger picture over our own personal convenience.

What do you like to do in your free time?
I enjoy running, reading, gardening, playing cribbage, playing piano, watching the Minnesota Vikings, and running some more.

Sammi Shaykett - Class of 2016  
Hometown: Nisland, SD

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
The College of Veterinary Medicine has given me the opportunity to experience vet med in a hands on fashion. I love getting out of the classroom and performing physical exams, procedures, and caring for animals.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
The really big problem that I would choose as a large animal vet is educating my clients on use of calving ease bulls. This would help out both the producer and large animal vets, as it would decrease the amount of calving dystocias.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my free time I love being outdoors. I love to go fishing, boating, and swimming. I also love going back to South Dakota and help my parents out of their ranch.
Janna Sorg - Class of 2018  
Hometown: Hastings, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?  
The best part has been applying what I have learned in class to hands on labs throughout the semester. I have also enjoyed being a part of the PAM Executive Board and attending AABP each year.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?  
I hope my education can help me be a part of developing new efficient and safe food production methods to feed the growing population.

What do you like to do in your spare time?  
I enjoy running, spending time with friends, cross stitching and helping on my family's dairy farm.

Rachel Spencer - Class of 2016  
Hometown: Oxford, WI

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?  
The best part of my time here at the veterinary school has been all the great relationships I have developed with my fellow class mates. I look forward to collaborating with them in the future as we all pursue different interests in the broad field of veterinary medicine.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?  
A large problem that many veterinary students face is the transition from the academic classroom material to the real life experiences in the clinical year. My goal is to help provide resources that will enable students to begin to put together all the information they have learned into a coherent way of thinking critically through cases in the hospital. I never want to forget the challenges faced during the clinical year and will always strive to provide mentor ship and encouragement to students in the classes that come behind me.

What do you like to do in your free time?  
I enjoy biking, running and swimming. Also, I enjoy reading a good book whenever I have some free time.
Natasha Spiczka - Class of 2018  
**Hometown:** St. Cloud, MN

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
The best part has been all the hands-on opportunities and labs we get to do. It's a get learning experience and fun to do.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**
I would like to educate people on the aspects of agriculture and the processes involved with it so that people can fully understand what happens and the negativity regarding agriculture would be diminished.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**
I enjoy horseback riding, roping, spending time with family and friends, being outdoors, hunting, and watching movies.

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Brian Stampfl - Class of 2017  
**Hometown:** Verona, WI

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
The best parts for me are any opportunities to get out of the classroom to do some hands-on learning. I've had the opportunity to conduct summer research, participate in the Dairy Challenge, and attend a number of great labs.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**
I would choose to help continually improve our agricultural practices so as to provide adequate nutrition to our population with the lowest environmental impact possible. Agriculture is continually improving its efficiency, and I would love to be a part of it.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**
I love going to concerts, hunting and fishing when I can, reading, and watching the Packers. I also like playing the guitar poorly and trying to train my herding-breed dog to retrieve.
Jeffrey Stegmaier - Class of 2017  
Hometown: Upland, CA

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
I have enjoyed being able to work with professors who are actively practicing in the University Hospital. I find that being educated by individuals who are also currently working on campus in the hospital has significantly aided in my understanding of what practicing in a referral atmosphere is like. Additionally, being involved in clerk duty and mini-rotations in the hospital has provided a level of exposure that I would never gain at a private practice or other university. The unique types of cases that are brought into the hospital are unlike anything that I may encounter in general practice.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I feel that the education I have received would best be used to continuously educate small animal owners on the benefits of preventive medicine. Although this may not seem like one really big problem in our society, I believe that educating clients early on may have enumerable benefits for the patient, owners and society as a whole. Fundamental knowledge concerning proper vaccinations, parasite prevention, elective spay/neuter procedures and dental prophylaxis can increase the longevity and quality of life of our companion animals as well as promote an ongoing awareness of public health.

What do you like to do in your free time?
I enjoy spending time with my girlfriend going on bike rides, golfing, bowling as well as taking our dog "Jiggles" on long walks. I also enjoy hanging out around the house with our cat and turtle while we relax and bbq or watch a movie. When not in school or enjoying leisure time, I find great satisfaction working at a local small animal practice and applying some of the knowledge and clinical skills I have accrued into a practical environment.

Lara Stephens-Brown - Class of 2018  
Hometown: Skandia, MI

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
In my time here I've already created some of the strongest bonds with my classmates. I know that wherever we end up going from here we will be great friends and able to lean on each other in the great network of colleagues. I'm proud of the community we've cultivated and know it will benefit us all down the road.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I want to use my education to help prevent misinformation in my clients and the general public. I'd like to make a difference in our government's legislation on veterinary medicine.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I like spending time with my horses: teaching my greenie the basics and chasing my old retired gelding around keeping him active. I'm very involved in our school's SCAEP and the Sled Dog Medicine Club as well as getting the most out of many other clubs. I like to hike, camp, and volunteer at sled dog races. Knitting while watching Netflix is one of my favorite winter hobbies when not at a race.
Brittany Stewart - Class of 2017
Hometown: Greensboro, MD

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
The best part of vet school has been the joy it has given my Poppy. Nothing is better than his smile when I give him my grades. He is a wonderful support and gives me drive to be the best I can be.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
Cancer, of course.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I enjoy spending time with my cats. They keep me humble and remind me why I have wanted to be a vet since I was little.

Ryan Strobel - Class of 2017
Hometown: Pemberton, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
My favorite part of school so far has been the surgery opportunities and hands on labs.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
Eradicate PRRS and prevent foreign animal diseases from our herds in the United States.

What do you like to do in your free time?
In my free time I enjoy outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing. I also enjoy spending time working and judging show livestock.

Käri Strohmaier - Class of 2016
Hometown: Chanhassen, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
Clinical rotations have been the best part of veterinary school. It's been great to build relationships with classmates, clinicians, and clients over the past year.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I would like to help solve the problem of pet overpopulation in underserved areas of the world by providing low-cost veterinary services and education to pet owners.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Over the past few years, I've spent a lot of my spare time volunteering for various vet-related activities, working at Pet Poison Helpline, and serving as a mentor/tutor for both vet students and undergraduates. I also enjoy spending time with family and friends, playing sports, singing at various events, and traveling.
Ashley Swenson - Class of 2016
Hometown: Nicollet, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
Over the past four years, I have enjoyed making new friends and meeting new colleagues. Through clinical rotations, externships, and club sponsored activities, I have had the opportunity to travel across MN and throughout country to learn from leaders in veterinary medicine and the dairy industry. The CVM has provided a vast number of experiences as well as access to the necessary resources for a successful veterinary career.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
As veterinarians, our knowledge is highly regarded by the general public. As a food animal veterinarian, I would like to use my veterinary degree to help bridge the communication gap between consumers and producers. More specifically, I would like to use my education to explain veterinarians' role in food animal medicine from the use of antibiotics and vaccinations to animal welfare and food safety.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
In my spare time I enjoy working on my family's dairy farm and spending time with family and friends.

Jacklynn Van Asch - Class of 2017
Hometown: Coon Rapids, MN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
I have enjoyed working with classmates and faculty on difficult cases that have presented to the Veterinary Medical Center. It is very rewarding to be able to apply three years of veterinary education in a case base application.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I would choose to help solve the problem of meeting the food demand of an increasing world population while maintaining the best animal welfare practices for production animals.

What do you like to do in your free time?
I enjoy reading, spending time at the barn with all the animals, riding my horse, playing and snuggling with my dog, and spending time with my family.
Lauren Vezzosi - Class of 2016  
**Hometown:** Plymouth, MN

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
I’ve really enjoyed my entire clinical year of school. It has been exciting to work closely with the clinicians, clients, and patients in the hospital.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**
I would like to reduce animal overpopulation in developing countries by making sterilization and humane education more accessible.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**
I really enjoy traveling and like to use my vacation time to explore different countries. I also enjoy spending time with my family and friends, horseback riding and skiing.

Daniel Wingert - Class of 2016  
**Hometown:** Plainview, MN

**What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?**
I have truly enjoyed our clinical year. Having the opportunity to put my knowledge to use in a clinical setting has been a great experience and has made me excited for a long career in veterinary medicine.

**If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?**
I would want to help underserved populations who have difficulty accessing veterinary care for their animals. During my veterinary education, I have been exposed to many underserved populations through my volunteer experiences with organizations such as SIRVS, VeTouch, and HSVMA-RAVS. I hope to help bring high quality medicine to these populations through future volunteer opportunities.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**
I enjoy spending time with friends and family, hosting game nights, running, weightlifting, kayaking, and being on my family's farm.
Scholarship Recipients 2016

Jordan Young - Class of 2017
Hometown: South Bend, IN

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
The best part of my time at the College of Veterinary Medicine has been collaborating with colleagues in my class. Our year is made up of people from many different backgrounds with a variety of interests. I have learned immense amounts of information about veterinary medicine from discussion with my peers.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
If I could solve one big problem in the world, it would be lessening the burden infectious disease has on pets, farms and humans, through preventative measures. Infectious disease impacts almost every part of our lives, from how we eat, to how we directly interact with people and animals. I hope to use my education to design treatments and techniques that can prevent the spread of infectious diseases and protect animal and human health.

What do you like to do in your free time?
Out of class, I am an officer in the UMN's Research Animal Medicine Club and an ambassador for the College of Veterinary Medicine at the Center for Health Interprofessional Programs. In my spare time, I enjoy cooking new foods, hiking local trails in Minnesota, biking, and building computers.

Patricia Zentner - Class of 2017
Hometown: Naperville, IL

What has been the best part of your time at the College of Veterinary Medicine so far?
Becoming a (kind of) foster failure. My two cats that I rescued in first year have reminded me every day why I am in this career: The human-animal bond.

If you could use your education to help solve one really big problem, what problem would you choose?
I would like to use my education to help those suffering from mental health issues by promoting healthy human-animal interactions and preserving this special bond. The human-animal bond is a unique and beautiful relationship that has been studied to alter hormones and lower heart rate, as well as provide a sense of purpose and daily structure. Animals provide unconditional love in a world full of anger and confusion and I believe they are the key to inner peace.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
As I go into my clinical year, I will be releasing my duties as Alpha Psi, Nu Chapter president and SIRVS (Student Initiative for Reservation Veterinary Services) fundraising co-chair. I have continually represented the CVM as a class representative, student council member, and student ambassador. In my spare time, I enjoy watching Family Feud, visiting local breweries, and playing darts. But really, I just waste my time playing Kitty Collector on my phone and napping for days.